

# IMP

From imposition of strict laws, to free  
Acceptance of large grace; from servile fear  
To filial; works of law, to works of faith. *Milt. P. Lest.*  
4. Confract; oppression.  
The constraint of receiving and holding opinions by author-  
ity was rightly called *imposition*. *Locke.*  
A greater load has been laid on us than we have been able  
to bear, and the grossest *impositions* have been submitted to, in  
order to forward the dangerous designs of a faction. *Swift.*  
Let it not be made, contrary to its own nature, the occa-  
sion of strife, a narrow spirit, and unreasonable *impositions* on  
the mind and practice. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*  
5. Cheat; fallacy; imposture.  
IMPOSSIBLE. *adj.* [*impossibile*, Fr. in and possible.] Not to be  
done; not to be attained; impracticable.  
Unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoying;  
but *impossible* desires are punished in the desire itself. *Sidney.*  
It was *impossible* that the state should continue quiet. *2 Mac.*  
With men this is *impossible*; but with God all things are  
possible. *Matt. xix. 26.*  
'Twere *impossible* for any enterprize to be lawful, if that  
which legitimated it is subsequent to it. *Decay of Piety.*  
Difficult it is, but not *impossible*. *Chillingworth.*  
It is *impossible* the mind should be stopped any where in  
its progress in this space, how far soever it extends its  
thoughts. *Locke.*  
We cannot believe it *impossible* to God to make a creature  
with more ways to convey into the understanding the notice  
of corporeal things than five. *Locke.*  
I my thoughts deceive  
With hope of things *impossible* to find. *Watts.*  
IMPOSSIBILITY. *n. f.* [*impossibilitas*, Fr. from *impossible*.]  
1. Impracticability; the state of being not feasible.  
Simple Philoclea, it is the *impossibility* that doth torment  
me; for unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoy-  
ing, but *impossible* desires in the desire itself. *Sidney.*  
Admit all these *impossibilities* and great absurdities to be pos-  
sible and convenient. *White.*  
Let the mutinous winds  
Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fry sun,  
Murdering *impossibility*, to make  
What cannot be, flight work. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*  
They confound difficulty with *impossibility*. *South.*  
Those who assert the *impossibility* of space existing without  
matter, must make body infinite. *Locke.*  
When we see a man of like passions and weakness with our-  
selves going before us in the paths of duty, it confutes all lazy  
pretences of *impossibility*. *Rogers.*  
2. That which cannot be done.  
Though men do, without offence, wish daily that the af-  
fairs, which with evil success are past, might have fallen out  
much better; yet to pray that they may have been any other  
than they are, this being a manifest *impossibility* in itself, the  
rules of religion do not permit. *Hooker.*  
*Impossibilities!* oh no, there's none,  
Could I bring thy heart captive home. *Cowley.*  
IMPOST. *n. f.* [*impost*, *impost*, French; *impositum*, Latin.] A  
tax; a toll; custom paid.  
Taxes and *imposts* upon merchants do seldom good to the  
king's revenue; for that that he wins in the hundred, he loses  
in the shire. *Bacon's Essays.*  
IMPOSTS. *n. f.* [*impost*, Fr. *incumbit*, Latin.] In architecture,  
that part of a pillar, in vaults and arches, on which the weight  
of the whole building lieth. *Ainsworth.*  
TO IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. n.* [from *imposthume*.] To form an  
abscess; to gather; to form a cyst or bag containing matter.  
The bruise *imposthumated*, and afterwards turned to a sink-  
ing ulcer, which made every body fly to come near  
her. *Arbutnot.*  
TO IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. a.* To afflict with an imposthume.  
They would not fly that surgeon, whose lancet threatens  
none but the *imposthumated* parts. *Decay of Piety.*  
IMPOSTHUMATION. *n. f.* [from *imposthume*.] The act of  
forming an imposthume; the state in which an imposthume is  
formed.  
He that maketh the wound bleed inwards, endangereth ma-  
lign ulcers and pernicious *imposthumations*. *Bacon's Essays.*  
IMPOSTHUME. *n. f.* [This seems to have been formed by  
corruption from *impostem*, as *South* writes it; and *impostem*  
to have been written erroneously for *apostem*, ἀποστημα, an ab-  
scess.] A collection of purulent matter in a bag or cyst.  
Now the rotten diseases of the South, ruptures, catarrhs,  
and bladders full of *imposthumes*, make preposterous discove-  
ries. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*  
An error in the judgment is like an *impostem* in the head,  
which is always noisome, and frequently mortal. *South.*  
Fumes cannot transude through the bag of an *imposthume*.  
*Harvey on Consumptions.*  
IMPOSTOR. *n. f.* [*impostor*, Fr. from *impose*; *impositus*, Latin.]  
One who cheats by a fictitious character.  
Shame and pain, poverty and sickness, yea death and hell

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itself, are but the trophies of those fatal conquests got by that  
grand *impostor*, the devil, over the deluded sons of men. *South.*  
IMPOSTURE. *n. f.* [*impostura*, Fr. *impostura*, Latin.] Cheat;  
fraud; supposititiousness; cheat committed by giving to per-  
sons or things a false character.  
That the soul and angels have nothing to do with grosser  
locality is generally opinioned; but who is it that retains not  
a great part of the *imposture*, by allowing them a definitive  
ubi, which is still but imagination? *Glanv. Scops.*  
Open to them so many of the interior secrets of this mys-  
terious art, without *imposture* or invidious reserve. *Everlyn.*  
We know how successful the late usurper was, while his  
army believed him real in his zeal against kingship; but when  
they found out the *imposture*, upon his aspiring to the same  
himself, he was presently deserted, and never able to crown his  
usurped greatness with that title. *South.*  
Form new legends,  
And fill the world with follies and *impostures*. *Irene.*  
IMPOTENCY. *n. f.* [*impotentia*, Latin.]  
1. Want of power; inability; imbecility; weakness.  
Some were poor by *impotency* of nature; as young fatherless  
children, old decrepit persons, idiots, and cripples. *Hay.*  
Weakness, or the *impotence* of exercising animal motion,  
attends fevers. *Arbutnot.*  
God is a friend and a father, whose care supplies our wants,  
and defends our *impotence*, and from whose compassion in Christ  
we hope for eternal glory hereafter. *Rogers's Sermons.*  
This is not a restraint or *impotency*, but the royal preroga-  
tive of the most absolute king of kings; that he wills to do  
nothing but what he can; and that he can do nothing which  
is repugnant to his divine goodness. *Bentley.*  
2. Ungovernableness of passion. A Latin signification: *animi*  
*impotentia*.  
Will he, so wise, let loose at once his ire,  
Belike through *impotence*, or unaware,  
To give his enemies their wish, and end  
Them in his anger, whom his anger saves  
To punish endless? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
Yet all combin'd,  
Your beauty and my *impotence* of mind. *Dryden.*  
3. Incapacity of propagation.  
Dulness with obscenity must prove  
As hateful, sure, as *impotence* in love. *Pope.*  
IMPOTENT. *adj.* [*impotent*, Fr. *impotens*, Latin.]  
1. Weak; feeble; wanting force; wanting power.  
We that are strong must bear the imbecility of the *impotent*,  
and not please ourselves.  
Yet wealth is *impotent*  
To gain dominion, or to keep it gain'd.  
Although in dreadful whirls we hung,  
High on the broken wave,  
I knew thou wert not slow to hear,  
Nor *impotent* to save. *Addison's Spectator.*  
2. Disabled by nature or disease.  
In those porches lay a great multitude of *impotent* folk, of  
blind, halt, and withered. *Jo. v. 3.*  
These sat a certain man, *impotent* in his feet, being a cri-  
ple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. *Acts xiv.*  
I have learn'd that fearful commenting  
Is leaden servitor to dull delay;  
Delay leads *impotent* and frail-pac'd beggary. *Shakespeare, R. III.*  
3. Without power of restraint. [*Animi impotens*.]  
With jealous eyes at distance the had seen,  
Whispering with Jove, the silver-footed queen;  
Then, *impotent* of tongue, her silence broke,  
Thus turbulent in rattling tone she spoke. *Dryden.*  
4. Without power of propagation.  
He told beau Prim, who is thought *impotent*, that his mis-  
tress would not have him, because he is a sloven, and had com-  
mitted a rape. *Tatler.*  
IMPOTENTLY. *adv.* [from *impotent*.] Without power.  
Proud Caesar, 'midst triumphal cars,  
The spoils of nations, and the pomp of wars,  
Ignobly vain, and *impotently* great,  
Shew'd Rome her Cato's figure drawn in state. *Pope.*  
TO IMPOUND. *v. a.* [in and pound. See POUND.]  
1. To inclose as in a pound; to shut in; to confine.  
The great care was rather how to *impound* the rebels, that  
none of them might escape, than that any doubt was made to  
vanquish them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
2. To shut up in a pinfold.  
England  
Hath taken and *impounded* as a fray. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*  
The king  
Seeing him wander about, I took him up for a fray, and the right  
*impounded* him, with intention to restore him to the right  
owner. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*  
TO IMPOWER. See EMPOWER.  
IMPRACICABLE. *adj.* [*impracticable*, Fr. in and practicable.]  
1. Not to be performed; unfeasible; impossible. *Had*

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Had there not been still remaining bodies, the legitimate  
offspring of the antediluvian earth, 'twould have been an ex-  
travagant and *impracticable* undertaking to have gone about to  
determine any thing concerning it. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*  
To preach up the necessity of that which our experience  
tells us is utterly *impracticable*, were to affront mankind with  
the terrible prospect of universal damnation. *Rogers's Sermon.*  
2. Untractable; unmanageable.  
That fierce *impracticable* nature  
Is govern'd by a dainty-finger'd girl. *Rowe.*  
IMPRACICABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *impracticable*.] Impossibility.  
I do not know a greater mark of an able minister than that  
of rightly adapting the several faculties of men, nor is any  
thing more to be lamented than the *impracticableness* of doing  
this. *Swift.*  
TO IMPRECATE. *v. a.* [*imprecator*, Latin.] To call for evil  
upon himself or others.  
IMPRECATION. *n. f.* [*imprecatio*, Lat. *imprecation*, Fr. from  
*imprecate*.] Curse; prayer by which any evil is wished.  
My mother shall the horrid furies raise  
With *imprecations*. *Chapman's Odyssey.*  
Sir John Hotham, uncurst by any language or *imprecation*  
of mine, not long after paid his own and his eldest son's  
heads. *King Charles.*  
With *imprecations* thus he fill'd the air,  
And angry Neptune heard th' unrighteous pray'r. *Pope.*  
IMPRECATORY. *adj.* [from *imprecate*.] Containing wishes of  
evil.  
TO IMPREGN. *v. a.* [in and *prægnare*, Latin.] To fill with  
young; to fill with any matter or quality.  
In her ears the found  
Yet rung of his persuasive words, *impregn'd*  
With reason, to her seeming. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
Th' unfruitful rock itself, *impregn'd* by thee,  
Forms lucid stones. *Thomson's Summer.*  
IMPREGNABLE. *adj.* [*imprenable*, French.]  
1. Not to be storm'd; not to be taken.  
Two giants kept themselves in a castle, seated upon the top  
of a rock, *imprenable*, because there was no coming to it but  
by one narrow path, where one man's force was able to keep  
down an army. *Sidney.*  
Let us be back'd with God, and with the seas,  
Which he hath given for fence *imprenable*,  
And with their helps alone defend ourselves. *Shakespeare, H. VI.*  
Hast thou not him, and all  
Which he calls his, inclosed with a wall  
Of strength *imprenable*? *Sandys.*  
There the capitol thou see'st,  
Above the rest lifting his stately head  
On the Tarpeian rock, her citadel  
*imprenable*. *Milton's Paradise Regain'd, b. iv.*  
2. Unshaken; unmoved; unaffected.  
The man's affection remains wholly unconcerned and *impre-  
nable*; just like a rock, which, being plied continually by  
the waves, still throws them back again, but is not at all  
moved. *South's Sermons.*  
IMPREGNABLY. *adv.* [from *imprenable*.] In such a manner  
as to defy force or hostility.  
A castle strongly seated on a high rock, joineth by an isthmus  
to the land, and is *impregnably* fortified. *Sandys.*  
TO IMPREGNATE. *v. a.* [in and *prægnare*, Latin.]  
1. To fill with young; to make prolific.  
Hermaphrodites, although they include the parts of both  
sexes, cannot *impregnate* themselves. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*  
*Impregnate*, from their loins they shed  
A slimy juice. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.*  
With native earth their blood the monsters mix'd;  
The blood, endu'd with animating heat,  
Did in the *impregnate* earth new sons beget. *Dryden.*  
2. [*Impregner*, French.] To fill; to saturate.  
Christianity is of so prolific a nature, so apt to *impregnate*  
the hearts and lives of its profelytes, that it is hard to imagine  
that any branch should want a due fertility. *Decay of Piety.*  
IMPREGNATION. *n. f.* [from *impregnate*.]  
1. The act of making prolific; fecundation.  
They ought to refer matters unto counsellors, which is the first  
begetting or *impregnation*; but when they are elaborate in the  
womb of their counsel, and grow ripe to be brought forth,  
then they take the matter back into their own hands. *Bacon.*  
2. That with which any thing is *impregnated*.  
What could implant in the body such peculiar *impregnations*,  
as should have such power? *Derham's Physico-Theology.*  
3. [*Impregnation*, French.] Saturation.  
IMPREJUDICATE. *adj.* [in, *præ*, and *judicio*, Latin.] Unpre-  
judiced; not prepossessed; impartial.  
The solid reason of one man with *imprejudicate* apprehen-  
sions, begets as firm a belief as the authority or aggregated  
testimony of many hundreds. *Brown.*  
IMPREPARATION. *n. f.* [in and *preparation*.] Unprepared-  
ness; want of preparation.  
*Impreparation* and unreadiness when they find in us, they  
turn it to the footing up of themselves. *Holzer.*

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TO IMPRESS. *v. a.* [*impressum*, Latin.]  
1. To print by pressure; to stamp.  
So foul and ugly, that exceeding fear  
Their villages *impress*, when they approached near. *Fa. Qu.*  
When God from earth form'd Adam in the East,  
He his own image on the clay *impress*. *Denham.*  
The conquering chief his foot *impress*  
On the strong neck of that destructive beast. *Dryden, Ovid.*  
2. To fix deep.  
We should dwell upon the arguments, and *impress* the mo-  
tives of persuasion upon our own hearts, 'till we feel the force  
of them. *Watts.*  
3. To force into service. This is generally now spoken and  
written *press*.  
His age has charms in it, his title more,  
To pluck the common bosoms on his side,  
And turn our *impress* launces in our eyes  
Which do command them. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until  
Great Birnam-wood to Dunfinane's high hill  
Shall come against him.  
—That will never be:  
Who can *impress* the forest, bid the tree  
Unfix his earth-bound root? *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
Ormond should contribute all he could for the making those  
levies of men, and for *impressing* of ships. *Clarendon.*  
IMPRESS. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. Mark made by pressure.  
This weak *impress* of love is as a figure  
Trench'd in ice, which with an hour's heat  
Dissolves to water. *Shakespeare, Two Gent. of Verona.*  
They having taken the *impresses* of the infides of these shells  
with that exquisite niceness, as to express even the finest line-  
aments of them. *Woodward's Nat. History.*  
2. Effects upon another substance.  
How objects are represented to myself I cannot be igno-  
rant; but in what manner they are received, and what *im-  
presses* they make upon the differing organs of another, he only  
knows that feels them. *Glanv. Scops.*  
3. Mark of distinction; stamp.  
God, surveying the works of the creation, leaves us this  
general *impress* or character upon them, that they were ex-  
ceeding good. *South's Sermons.*  
4. Device; motto.  
To describe emblazon'd shields,  
*Impresses* quaint, caparitions, and steeds,  
Bales, and tinsel trappings. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*  
5. Act of forcing any into service; compulsion; seizure. Now  
commonly *press*.  
Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under an *im-  
press*. *Shakespeare, Troilus and Cressida.*  
Why such *impress* of shipwrights, whole fore talk  
Does not divide the Sunday from the week. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*  
Your ships are not well mann'd;  
Your mariners are multiteers, reapers, people  
Ingross'd by swift *impresses*. *Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
IMPRESSION. *n. f.* [*impressio*, Latin; *impressio*, Fr.]  
1. The act of pressing one body upon another.  
Sensation is such an *impression* or motion, made in some  
part of the body, as produces some perception in the under-  
standing. *Locke.*  
2. Mark made by pressure; stamp.  
Like to a chaos, or unlick'd bear-whelp,  
That carries no *impression* like the dam. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*  
3. Image fixed in the mind.  
Were the offices of religion spirit of all the external decen-  
cies, they would not make a due *impression* on the mind. *Atterbury.*  
The false representations of the kingdom's enemies had  
made some *impression* in the mind of the successor. *Swift.*  
4. Operation; influence.  
The king had made him high sheriff of Suffex, that he  
might the better make *impression* upon that county. *Clarendon.*  
We lie open to the *impressions* of flattery, which we admit  
without scruple, because we think we deserve it. *Atterbury.*  
Universal gravitation is above all mechanism, and proceeds  
from a divine energy and *impression*. *Bentley's Sermon.*  
There is a real knowledge of material things, when the  
thing itself, and the real action and *impression* thereof on our  
senses, is perceived. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*  
5. Edition; number printed at once; one course of printing.  
To be distracted with many opinions, makes men to be of  
the last *impression*, and full of change. *Bacon.*  
For ten *impressions*, which his works have had in so many  
years, at present a hundred books are scarcely purchased once  
a twelvemonth. *Dryden.*  
6. Effect of an attack.  
Such a defeat of near two hundred horse, seconded with two  
thousand foot, may surely endure a comparison with any of  
the bravest *impressions* in ancient times. *Wotton.*  
IMPRESSIBLE. *adj.* [in and *pressum*, Lat.] What may be im-  
pressed.